

**Regional Services Council Meeting  
Region 4  
December 12, 2005, 4:00 pm  
Whitley County Court House**

Present at the meeting were:

Dave Judkins, Region 4 Manager  
Judge James Heuer, Whitley County  
Judge Charles Pratt, Allen County  
Jan Lung, Director Steuben/LaGrange County  
Steve Scott, Director Adams County  
Mary Southern, Director Dekalb County  
Andria Eguia, Family Case Manager Allen County  
Kim Wilson, Family Case Manager Supervisor Wells/Miami County  
Steve Weaver, Director Whitley County (interim Director of Huntington County)

Not present were Rex McFarren, Allen County CASA; Alice Mull, Foster Parent;  
Judge Michael Kramer, Noble County

In the previous meeting on November 7, 2005, Judge Heuer asked about status offenses such as truancy, runaway, and disobedience and how these are handled in the counties within the region – are they typically CHINS or Probation cases? Dave stated that he could put out a survey on this to see how they are handled regionally in the different counties. The results of this survey were shared by Dave Judkins via handout which included input from Noble, Steuben, Wells, and Whitley Counties. Dave Judkins and Judge Pratt spoke verbally to Allen county and Steve Weaver spoke regarding Huntington County. Generally, speaking truancy, incorrigible behaviors, and runaway are handled the same throughout the region. Rule of thumb has been the older the child the more likely the issue is dealt with through probation vs. Department of Child Services, unless there are allegations of abuse or neglect with regard to the child. Allen County utilizes SOCAP, an arm of the court, to deal with truancy and incorrigible behaviors offering services and from there, if warranted, further determination could result in abuse/neglect report or probation referral.

Dave Judkins mentions that HB 1001 is a bill worth watching. States that this is a property tax relief bill and basically it is set to transfer the cost of services to families back to the state over the course of a few years. It slates approximately 25% per year and indicates that by the year 2010 costs for services to families would be the responsibility of the state, not the counties. Part of this bill could include the cost of probation children.

County Council budgets could be revamped to reduce the budgets. Based on previous information used to develop the budgets there are a few areas that were

predicted that are not able to be implemented as soon as hoped and can be reduced. Those areas include monies for the per diem increase for foster homes, as well as Intensive Preservation and Reunification Services. Also there was 16 million in waiver funds throughout the state that can be included to reduce these budgets.

Minutes from 11-7-05 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Dave Judkins reports that he has received clarification on public access for the Regional Services Council meetings. These meetings are open to the public. The council will need to post the agenda for the meeting 2 days prior to the meeting at the site of the meeting. Public notice of the meeting will be posted 2 days prior to the meeting on the Department of Child Services Website. Any media can access meeting and ask for minutes. Providers can attend but does not give necessarily give them the option to speak. It is suspected that the meetings will continue to grow in size.

James Shively, ACSW, provided a brief written explanation of IV-B Part 1 and Part 2 monies and how they are used. Part 1 funds are the least restrictive and can be used for a wide range of prevention, preservation, reunification and foster care services. States are able to use these funds to initiate new services as well as support existing services. Part II was created as part of the "safe and Stable Families" legislation to target specified portions of the State Title IV-B allocation to programs intended to promote the objectives of this legislation. The four target populations these funds are required to serve include:

1. Family support for primary prevention services to families before they come to the attention of Child Protection Services.
2. Family Preservation for immediate intervention with families who have had contact with Child Protection Services, but whose situation is stable enough for the children to remain in the home.
3. Time Limited Reunification for immediate intervention with families who have had one or more children removed from their home and placed in foster care and whose case plan goal is to reunify the children with the family.
4. Adoption support for intervention with children permanently removed from their biological families and in need of an adoptive family.

Each state determines as part of their federal plan what minimum percentages of the total Title IV-B Part II allocation must be spent in each of the categories.

Indiana's current minimums are Family Support – 20%, Family Preservation – 35%, Time Limited reunification – 5%, and Adoption Support – 20%.

Dave Judkins advises that Part 1 was reduced by about 50% after the budgets were set. However this is still a significant amount of money.

The RFP's for services for the region are out. There have been a lot of questions regarding the different process. For example, previously state set up a minimum and maximum for hourly rates for services, this was not done on the current RFP's.

The Providers have until 12-22-05 to get their proposals to the local DCS. From there they are reviewed by the county Directors who will review and have them approved by January 20-27<sup>th</sup>. From there it will come to the Regional Services Council for approval. These are not just IV-B services, but ALL services used by DCS. The RSC will look at them and determine if there are voids or missing pieces in the services that are approved. If the RSC sees a void we may request that the state put out an RFP for that missing piece and take proposals for these services.

DCS trend will be to deal with the harder cases that will require court intervention. If it does not rise to this level DCS may refer it to a community program to offer services. The community programs would be built from resources in the community --an entity that has given a proposal. If a referral is not sufficient for DCS involvement but the need for services is noted, it would be referred to an agency offering services that were approved through an RFP calling it "community for safe children". They would then make the connection with the family.

Dave indicates that Judge Payne goes on the belief that the community has a role in keeping families safe, not just DCS and Court.

In the meeting on November 7, 2005, Dave requested that we look at the services section of the binders distributed and make a "top 10" list of services that the council feels are needed for CHINS and JD/JS cases for every county regionally and bring to this meeting. A discussion of those services that were felt as being important occurred. Some of the services mentioned were translation services, youth improvement programs for suspended kids, drug and alcohol programs for mothers that allowed them to keep their children during treatment, transitional services for children "aging out" of the system needed to be stronger, and Domestic Violence partnerships were some of the many discussed. Dave asked that lists made be compiled into one master list.

Dave Judkins indicates that in effect January of 2006 the state has firmed up residential services contracts. These contracts spell out what specifically the per diem covers. Residential services require a court order. Dave states that orders are not to state specific placement due to IV-E regulations, however it can state options. The regulations at 45 CFR 1356.21(g)(3) states that foster care maintenance payments may not be claimed when a court orders a placement with a specific foster care provider. A 'court ordered' placement is prohibited in the rule.

**Next Meeting will be January 31, 2006 at the Allen County Department of Child Services at 4:00 pm.** The main focus will be to discuss proposals.

Dave Judkins notes that our region has 3 new Directors they are Liz Learned, serving Huntington County; Michelle Savieo, serving Allen County; and Sue Romans, serving Noble County.

Adjourn 5:42 pm